AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

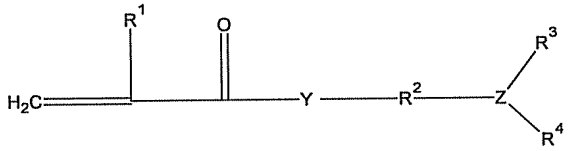
1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) An antifouling coating composition comprising:

a rosin as binder material, and

a salt group-comprising polymer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

reacting an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 5 or more carbon atoms with an amine- or phosphine-functional monomer of formula:



wherein

Y is O or NH,

Z is N or P,

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group,

R^2 is a C_2-C_{12} divalent hydrocarbon group,

R^3 and R^4 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group,

to form a monomer comprising a salt of an amine-functional group and/or a salt of a phosphine-functional group, said salt comprising as counter-ion the anionic residue of an acid having aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 carbon atoms; and

polymerizing at least one type of said salt-comprising monomer.

14. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the anionic residue comprises 5 to 50 carbon atoms.

15. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer with other polymers present in the composition that comprise one or more salts of amine-functional groups and/or one or more salts of phosphine-functional groups and/or one or more quaternary ammonium and/or one or more quaternary phosphonium-functional groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, comprises a total amount of salt-comprising plus quaternary functional monomer building blocks of 5 to 40 mole%, calculated on the total amount of monomers of which the polymer or the polymer mixture has been built.

16. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the coating composition has a binder comprising a blend of a rosin material and an auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 20:80 to 95:5, the auxiliary film-forming resin comprising 20-100% by weight of a film-forming polymer (A), which is the salt group-comprising polymer, and 80-20% of a non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

17. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 16, wherein the binder comprises a blend of the rosin material and the auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 55:45 to 80:20.

18. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 16, wherein the auxiliary film-forming resin comprises 30-90% by weight of the film-forming polymer (A) capable of hydrolysing or dissociating to a polymer soluble in sea water and 70-10% by weight of the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

19. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 15, wherein the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B) is an acrylate ester polymer or a vinyl ether polymer.

20. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the binder includes a non-polymeric plasticiser present at up to 50% by weight based on the total binder polymer.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for protection of a man-made structure immersed in water ~~such as boat hulls, buoys, drilling platforms, oil production rigs, and pipes~~ comprising applying [[a]] the coating composition of claim 13 to said structure.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the structure is selected from the group consisting of a boat hull, a buoy, a drilling platform, an oil production rig, and a pipe.